

Claims

1. Method for retrieving the file system of a recording medium, **including** the steps of:

- 5 - determining (2) a signature (<S>) of the recording medium by measuring features based on a data pattern stored on the recording medium, the signature including a plurality of elements;
- comparing (3, 4) the signature (<S>) with a plurality of
10 signatures (10) stored in a content database; and
- retrieving (5) the associated file system from the content database if the signature (<S>) is equal to a signature (10) stored in the content database.

- 15 2. Method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the step of comparing (3, 4) the signature (<S>) with a plurality of signatures (10) stored in a content database includes evaluating (31) the distances between the determined signature (<S>) and the signatures (10) stored in the content database.

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3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, **wherein** the steps of determining the signature (<S>) of the recording medium and comparing the signature (<S>) with a plurality of signatures include:

- 25 - determining (21) a first part of the signature (<S>) including a plurality of elements (s(1), s(2), s(3), ..., s(n));
- comparing (43, 44) the first part of the signature (<S>) with corresponding parts of the plurality of signatures (10) stored in the content database;
- 30 - determining (22, 23) a further part of the signature (<S>) if the first part of the signature (<S>) is equal to the corresponding part of at least one signature (10) stored in the content database; and

- comparing (45, 46) the further part of the signature (<S>) with corresponding parts of the plurality of signatures (10) stored in the content database.

5 4. Method according to one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized** in that in the comparing steps (3, 4, 43, 44, 45, 46) a negative progressive search approach is employed, in which the elements of the determined signature (<S>) are compared with the corresponding elements of the signatures (10) stored in the
10 content database one at a time, wherein every element of the signature (<S>) may yield a negative search result.

5. Method according to one of claims 1 to 4, **further** including the steps of:
15 - obtaining (7) the file system from the recording medium if the determined signature (<S>) is not equal to a signature (10) stored in the content database; and
- storing (8) the obtained file system and the determined signature (<S>) in the content database.

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6. Method according to one of claims 1 to 5, **characterized** in that the signature (<S>) is unique for every recording medium.

7. Method according to one of claims 1 to 6, **wherein** the
25 signature elements are selected from the disk status such as open or closed disk, number of sessions or number of tracks in each session, from timing information such as the lead-in time of each session, the lead-out time of each session, the total time of each session or subcode information of each track, or
30 from data integrity such as data checksums of specific tracks.

8. Apparatus for reading from and/or writing to recording media, **characterized** in that it uses a method according to anyone of claims 1 to 7 for retrieving the file system of the
35 recording medium.

9. Apparatus according to claim 8, **characterized** in that it performs the retrieval of the file system of the recording medium after insertion of the recording medium, after transferral of the recording medium into a playback position,
5 or after wake up from a power down mode.